Mobile service in Madhya Pradesh

948. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in Madhya Pradesh where mobile service is available at present;

(b) the number of districts in the State where this services has not been launched; and

(c) by when, this service would be provided in the remaining districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Sir, except for one District of Anooppur, Cellular Mobile Telephone Service is available in one or more towns of all the other 47 districts in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) As per the Licence Agreement of CMTs, in Telecom Circles, atleast 10% of the district Headquarters (DHQs) are to be covered in the first year and 50% of the district Headquarters within three years of effective date of Licence. The licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a district in lieu of the district Headquarters. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of entire service area with the service. The choice of district Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% district Headquarters/towns lies with the Licensee depending on its business decision.

Telephone to villages

949. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to provide telephone to all the revenue villages in the country;

(b) whether any target has been fixed for the purpose; and

(c) what progress has been made in that regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY